

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**THOMAS A. LEEPER,**

**Plaintiff,**

**vs.**

**MICHAEL J. ASTRUE,  
Commissioner of Social Security,**

**Defendant.**

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**Case No. 4:10CV935 LMB**

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

This is an action under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) for judicial review of defendant's final decision denying plaintiff's application for Disability Insurance Benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act and Supplemental Security Income benefits under Title XVI of the Act. Currently pending is Defendant's Motion to Reverse and Remand with Suggestions in Support. (Document Number 10). Plaintiff has not filed a response to defendant's motion.

In his motion, defendant requests that the court reverse the decision of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and remand this action pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Defendant states that upon receipt of the court's remand order, the Appeals Council of the Social Security Administration will remand this case to an ALJ, who will be directed to obtain testimony from a vocational expert to determine the effect of plaintiff's severe mental impairment on his ability to perform jobs that exist in significant numbers in the national economy. Defendant requests that the court enter a final judgment pursuant to Rule 58 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure reversing the decision of the ALJ and remanding this case to the Commissioner.

Sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) provides that “[t]he court shall have power to enter, upon the pleadings and transcript of the record, a judgment affirming, modifying, or reversing the decision of the Commissioner of Social Security, with or without remanding the cause for a rehearing.” However, in order for the court to properly remand a case to the Commissioner pursuant to sentence four, the court must enter an order either affirming, modifying or reversing the Commissioner’s decision. See Brown v. Barnhart, 282 F.3d 580, 581 (8th Cir. 2002).

The undersigned believes that it is appropriate to reverse and remand this case in order to permit the Commissioner to take further action as requested in his motion.

Accordingly,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Defendant’s Motion to Reverse and Remand with Suggestions in Support (Doc. No. 10) be and it is **granted**.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the decision of the Commissioner be **reversed** and this cause be **remanded** to the Commissioner for further proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) for those reasons set forth in this Memorandum and Order. A separate written judgment will be entered in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2010.

  
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LEWIS M. BLANTON  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE